

*S-2*  
*D-2*

50. (new) The method of Claim 49 wherein the nucleic acid promotes an increase in the tissue level of osteoprotegerin.

51. (new) The method of Claim 49 wherein the animal is a human.

52. (new) The method of Claim 51 wherein the osteoprotegerin comprises the amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 9B.

53. (new) The method of Claim 51 wherein the osteoprotegerin comprises a deletion or carboxy-terminal truncation of the amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 9B.--

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#### REMARKS

Pending claims 45-48 in the prior filed application have been cancelled without prejudice and Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims of corresponding subject matter as those cancelled in timely filed continuation applications. Claims 49-53 have been added. The subject matter of the present claims corresponds to that of Claims 34-36 in the grandparent application, Serial No. 08/577,788. Claims 49-53 do not introduce new matter or new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. Entry of the new claims is respectfully requested.

#### CONCLUSION

Upon entry of the amendments, Claims 49-53 are in condition for allowance and an early notice thereof is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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